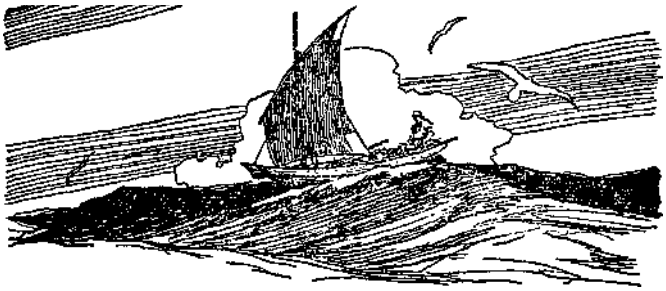

INTRODUCTORY

ROBINSON CRUSOE was born in the year 1632, in the city of York, as he says, of a good family. He early showed signs of a roving character and would be satisfied with nothing else than going to sea> though his father wished him to settle down to a peaceful life ashore. At the age of about eighteen he embarked on his first voyage, from Hull to London, a voyage that ended in disaster, for the ship was sunk in a storm off Yarmouth, and the crew with difficulty gained the land in a boat,

Crusoe next made one or two voyages to the Mediterranean and the northern parts of Africa; but on the last of these, the ship was captured by pirates and the crew taken prisoners. For upwards of two years Crusoe was a slave in the hands of the Moors; and at the end of that time fee made his escape in a small sailing-boat, and was picked up by a Portuguese ship bound for Brazil. There he settled down on shore for a time as a sugar-planter; and might have become prosperous had he not been a born wanderer, unable to resist the call of the sea; so his next venture was an expedition to the West African coast for the purpose of bringing over slaves to work on the

sugar plantations.

This voyage turned out even worse than the